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(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To allow a single firewall to support plural users having separate security policies.

SOLUTION: A firewall introduces a session key with respect to a packet, selects at least one security policy among plural security policy based on the session key and uses the selected security policy to authenticate the packet. In the embodiment, the session key includes items derived of header information of the packet. The items are, e.g. an Internet protocol IP source/destination address, a protocol of a next level, a source/destination port related to the protocol. Furthermore, the protocol of the next level is, e.g. a transmission control protocol TCP or a user datagram protocol UDP. The security policy copes with a different group or a different sub group in a given group.

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